



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND
3730 NORTH CHARLES PORTER AVENUE
OAK HARBOR, WASHINGTON 98278-5000

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April 28, 2017

Ms. Marcia Knadle
US EPA, Region 10, Mail Stop OEA-140
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Restoration Advisory Board Participants and Members:

SUBJECT: RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FOR NAVAL AIR STATION
WHIDBEY ISLAND SCHEDULED FOR MAY 15, 2017

The next Environmental Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2017, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the NAS Whidbey Island CPO Club, 1080 W Ault Field Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98278. Please note the new meeting location.

Meeting topics will include: State Petroleum Cleanup Program and Military Munitions Response Program update; Area 1 Seawall Repair; Area 6 Landfill update; and Status of PFAS Investigation. The next public meetings for the PFAS investigation will be on May 31 and June 1, 2017. New information will be discussed at these meetings.

Please direct any RAB-related inquiries to Mr. Mike Welding, NAS Whidbey Island Public Affairs Officer, at (360) 257-2286 or michael.welding@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

G.C. MOORE
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Enclosure: 1. Draft Minutes of the August 18, 2016, RAB Meeting

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2016

Oak Harbor, Washington

Attendees:

Greg Burgess
Mark Wicklein
Harry Craig
Ted Repasky
Ed Oetken

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Arnold Peterschmidt
Doug Kelly
Celine Servatius
Melanie Bengtson
(b) (6)
Kristeen Bennett

AECOM
NAVFAC NW
EPA, Region 10
EPA, Region 10
Community Co-Chair
Concerned Island Citizens
Concerned Island Citizens
citizen
citizen
citizen
citizen
citizen
City of Oak Harbor Public Works
Island County hydrogeologist
Naval Hospital Oak Harbor
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI)
citizen
NAVFAC NW

The meeting opened at 13:05 by Ms. Kristeen Bennett. Introductions were delivered by going around the table and room and an update on NAVFAC NW project staffing was provided by Ms. Bennett.

The minutes of the last RAB meeting were voted on and approved.

Ms. Bennett gave an update on the NASWI Munitions Response Program:

- Since the last meeting, the Navy has completed the Proposed Plan (PP) for the former Lake Hancock Target Range (LHTR) remedial action. An Open House was held at Greenbank Farm on July 11, 2016 to discuss the PP. Mr. Oetken stated that he never saw anything about the Greenbank meeting. Ms. Bennett stated that it was published in the three local newspapers a couple times, in the local sections. Per Mr. Oetken's request, Ms. Bennett will also send out meeting/open house announcements to RAB members via email.
 - In summary, this site was used as a bombing and rocket firing practice range from 1944 to 1974. Historical documents indicated that all ordnance used was practice/inert. The Navy conducted multiple munitions removal actions in the early 1970s. Ultimately,

munitions debris (classified as material potentially presenting an explosive hazard [MPPEH]) may still be present in ground at this site.

- The Navy completed a Wetlands Delineation Study and a Wetlands Impact Study for the former LHTR. These studies identified the number and types of wetlands present, including a unique type of saltwater marsh, and evaluated how removing munitions items would harm the wetlands. The studies recommended surface clearance as the best balance between protecting human health and minimizing damage to the wetlands. Therefore, the proposed remedy is surface removal only and land use controls (LUCs), including periodic inspections and fencing and signage.
 - At the time of this meeting, the Draft Record of Decision (ROD) detailing the Selected Remedy was being reviewed by Ecology.
 - Mr. Oetken inquired about the potential recreational use of the former LHTR by local homeowners surrounding the site. Ms. Bennett indicated that, at this time, any persons accessing or entering the site is trespassing on Navy property; the site is still used as training area.
- Since the last meeting, no additional investigations have been completed at the former Aviation Fleet Gunnery School (AFGS). Historically, the AFGS included three machine gun ranges and a mobile tower turret range. Previous investigations identified lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soil above residential cleanup levels. The EPA concurred with no future cleanup as long as the land use was limited to non-residential land use. The Navy instituted LUCs and has been inspecting these LUCs annually.

Ms. Bennett presented an update on the following petroleum sites at NASWI: Fuel Farms 1, 2, 3, and 4.

- The fuel farms are in long-term monitoring. Naturally occurring chemical breakdown of the petroleum, called natural attenuation, has happened to the point that the petroleum is now below cleanup levels at some locations. Since the last meeting, the Navy (working collaboratively with Ecology) decommissioned 20 monitoring wells at Fuel Farms 1, 2, and 4.
- The public inquired about the fate of pipeline connecting the Fuel Farms, especially the portions the pipeline present on private properties. Ms. Bennett indicated that future funding has been requested to remove the pipeline and address any remaining contamination.

Ms. Bennett presented an update on Rothboeck Ravine and Hangar 5 soil and groundwater investigations.

- Historically, Rothboeck Ravine was used for disposal of excess soil and inert solid waste generated during on-base construction projects. Although there were identified impacts to soil and groundwater, the source of material placed in ravine was never documented prior to emplacement. The Navy investigated the soil and groundwater around the site and did not identify any contaminants that would not allow unrestricted land use.
- The Navy conducted an investigation northwest of Hangar 5 after a 2012 flight line construction project reported "significant vapors." Soil and groundwater samples were collected in order to evaluate soil vapor intrusion risk to workers in Hangar 5. Gasoline in one soil sample exceeded the concentration allowable for unrestricted land use. All other media sampled did not contain any significant contaminant concentrations.

Mr. Burgess with AECOM presented an update on Area 6 (Current Landfill).

- Since the last meeting, the Navy is concurrently preparing the final Focused Feasibility (FFS), PP, and ROD Amendment in order to update the remedy for Area 6. At this time the Preferred Remedy includes:
 - adding to the network of existing pump & treat wells;
 - refurbishing the existing treatment plant and adding a new plant along the southern boundary;
 - using advanced oxidization to treat pumped groundwater;
 - continuing the surface discharge of treated groundwater;
 - using monitored natural attenuation to treat groundwater once the highest observed concentration is less than three times the cleanup level; and
 - modifying existing LUCs to include properties downgradient, if warranted.
- The Navy and EPA agree that the downgradient/offsite portion of the groundwater plume is not defined and that additional investigation is warranted. The public was concerned that the Navy wasn't moving faster with regards to treating the portion of the plume that has moved beyond the NASWI boundary and ensuring that all properties with possible drinking water wells within the limits of the downgradient portion of the plume have been notified.

Mr. Wicklein discussed the Area 1 (former Beach Landfill) sea wall repair and emerging contaminants.

- Since the last meeting, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) have been promulgated by the EPA as an emerging contaminant.
 - May also be identified as PFCs (perfluorinated chemicals) or AFFF (aqueous film-forming foam). Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) have been the most extensively produced and studied. In 2009, EPA established Provisional Health Advisory (PHA) for PFOS and PFOA. Historically, PFASs may have been used by the Navy to help fight fires at airfields and/or ships and other places where petroleum-product-based fires are a risk. The Navy is currently conducting an inventory of all sites where PFASs may have been used or stored.
 - The public was concerned that the Navy was ^{not?} acting quickly enough to address the potential of PFASs impacting local, private wells.
- Since the last meeting, the Navy has repaired the most of the sea wall fronting Area 1. OU 5 Area 1 is a former construction debris landfill on the shoreline west of the on the northwestern portion of NASWI-Seaplane Base. Historically, erosion on the shoreline uncovered some construction debris in the landfill, so the Navy installed a 1500-foot sea wall to shore the landfill and prevent future erosion. A small portion of the southern end still needs to be repaired and will be conducted during the next fiscal year.

Mr. Oetken asked if anyone in attendance had any other comments or questions. Ms. Bennett stated that the Navy is open to suggestions on other ways to announce the meetings. Mr. Oetken asked if there was any other old business to discuss. There was none.

Ms. Bennett asked if holding RAB meetings during the workday is acceptable for public participation. Mr. Oetken explained that over the years different times were tried, and midday meetings always received

the best attendance.

Mr. Oetken asked if documents are still available at the Oak Harbor Library. Ms. Bennett stated that, due to space limitations, the Oak Harbor library will no longer hold NASWI-related documents.

A date for the next meeting was tentatively scheduled to occur six months. Mr. Oetken requested that RAB members receive advanced notification when public comment periods occur.

Meeting adjourned at 15:15.